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United States Patent and Trademark Office

November 17, 1999

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OFFICE OF THOSE PAPERS OF THE BELOW IDENTIFIED PATENT
APPLICATION THAT MET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE GRANTED A
FILING DATE UNDER 35 USC 111.**

APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/107,017

FILING DATE: November 04, 1998

PRIORITY DOCUMENT

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Date 11/4/98 Label No. EM4 45426678

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New York, New York 10022
212-527-7700

File No: 0866/OE903

Date: November 4, 1998

Hon. Commissioner of
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Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Enclosed please find a provisional application for United States patent as identified below:

Inventor/s (ALL inventors, including NAME, plus city and state of RESIDENCE for each):

ODED KAFRI
3 EHUD STREET
BEERSHEVA 84234 - ISRAEL

Title: A METHOD FOR STORING VOICE MESSAGES IN PBX'S OF PTT'S USING AN E-MAIL
PLATFORM

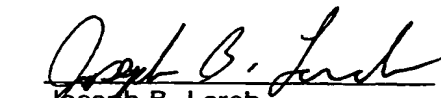
including the items indicated:

1. Specification and 4 claims: 2 independent; 2 dependent
2. [X] Drawings, 1 sheet (Fig. 1)

PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION COVER SHEET

3. [X] Check in the amount of \$150.00, (\$150. filing; \$- recording)

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph B. Lerch
Reg. No. 26,936
Attorney for Applicant(s)

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JAN 10 1994
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**A METHOD FOR STORING VOICE MESSAGES IN PBX'S OF PTT'S USING AN
E-MAIL PLATFORM**

FIELD AND BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Today, PTT's offer voice boxes as a service. One of the major producers of such a system is Comverse Technology Inc. The idea of the voice box is simple, when a caller dials a telephone number and does not receive an answer, the PBX routes the call to the receiver's voice box, digitizes the message and stores it on a hard disk to be retrieved later, by the receiver. The implementation of such systems is far from being trivial. PTT's deal with millions of customers at the same time and the service should be provided in real time. For example, if one calls from city A to city B and does not receive an answer, he should immediately be connected to the hard disk which contains the allocated space of the receiver. Since the number of hard disks is huge, this task requires special hardware and software that is not easy to make. Moreover, in order to leave a message for a person in a city B one has to call city B, in spite of the fact that if the line of the receiver in city B is busy, the PBX knows that it is busy without calling city B. In addition, leaving a message for a person in City B costs exactly the same as calling city B.

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D B Peck
NAME (PRINT)

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The system proposed here is based on the unified number concept, namely, that for each telephone number, there is an e-mail box with the same number. We also propose using the SRT-200 T-Mail server of Varicom Technologies Ltd, based on an MS Exchange server which enables communication with the e-mail boxes not only from the computer, but from the telephone as well. In addition, it enables one to forward voice messages and text messages to a telephone.

These two technologies, together with a change in the sequence of operation, yield major benefits both to the customers and the PTT's.

SECRET

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

In the new scheme, if the line does not answer for any of various reasons, the caller is not routed to the receiver's box, but to a local mail server. This is much simpler technically and less expensive, as the mail server is common to many users and can be geographically local and thus easily traced.

Since the receiver's number was dialed and it is identical to the e-mail address, (although it doesn't have to be) it can be stored as an e-mail address and the voice message, which is digitized and attached to the e-mail as a wave file, can be sent to it, through the Internet, to the e-mail box of the receiver. Since T-mailer 200 enables one to retrieve e-mail and voice messages through the telephone, one can handle the PTT's voice messages without additional cost. The proposed system has many other advantages namely:

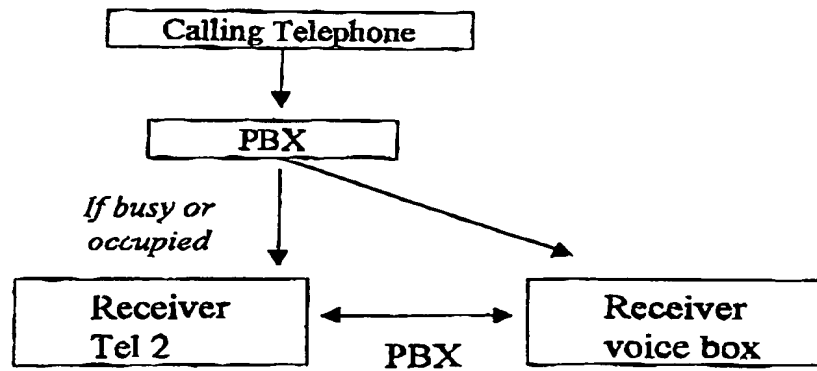
1. The voice box becomes a unified message box. Namely, voice, e-mail and fax messages can be handled in the same way.
2. The receiver can obtain his messages either through the telephone or through the computer, as he chooses.
3. The sender can leave a message for the receiver, either from the telephone or from the computer.
4. One can obtain e-mail without having a computer.
5. One can send e-mail through the telephone (a voice attachment e-mail) without having a computer.
6. One can call and decide that he does not want to reach the receiver's voice box at his expense.

- [illegible]

CLAIMS

1. A system for leaving voice messages in PBX's of PTT's in an off-line scheme.
2. A method for transferring voice messages in which the caller receiving a "no answer" or "busy" signal from a telephone call comprising the transfer of the message to a local e-mail server, digitizing the message, converting to e-mail format and sending to the receiver's mail box.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the recipient of the message can retrieve the voice message from the telephone.
4. A method according to claim 2 wherein the recipient of the message can retrieve the voice message from the computer.

Voice Box System



Present Setup

